

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1369
By Curtiss

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Wendell Anthony Jeffery
of Memphis.

WHEREAS, from time to time, this General Assembly has honored those outstanding citizens who, during their lifetimes, distinguished themselves as invaluable assets to their community; and

WHEREAS, the late Wendell Anthony Jeffery of the City of Memphis Fire Department was most assuredly one such outstanding public servant, who lost his life in the line of duty while protecting others from certain harm; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Jeffery dedicated nineteen years of his life to the Memphis Fire Department and truly enjoyed being a firefighter; he evidenced uncommon devotion to his duties despite the long hours and the uncertain and often dangerous nature of his profession; and

WHEREAS, a 1976 graduate of Oakhaven High School, Wendell A. Jeffery graduated from Shelby State Community College and was a student at Southwest Community College; he was also a member of the Black Pioneers, Teamsters Union, Progressive Firefighters, and the David Street Block Club; Mr. Jeffrey began his illustrious career as a firefighter in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Wendell A. Jeffery ensured his indelible status as a hero to Tennesseans on the fateful day of October 24, 2005, when he collapsed at Firehouse 19 after responding to multiple alarms during his shift and serving and protecting his fellow citizens of the State of Tennessee and the City of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Jeffery deftly balanced the demands of firefighting and family; in addition to being an outstanding firefighter, he was a loving husband, devoted father, and dutiful son and brother; and

WHEREAS, Wendell A. Jeffery was an active and devout member of the Harris Memorial CME Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jeffery was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Wendell Anthony Jeffery will be deeply missed by his beloved wife, Gwendolyn D. Stewart-Jeffery; three daughters, Jennifer, JaVeatrice, and LaDaisy Jeffery; two sons, Jaron and Jarvis Jeffery; his father, Edwin Jeffery, Sr.; three sisters, Beverly McVay, Aurelia Gray, and Airienne Jeffery; two brothers, Edwin 'Rosco' Jeffery, Jr., and Ronald Cox Jeffery; mother-in-law, Mamie Jackson; three brothers-in-law, David Lewis, Tracy Jackson, and Gregory Ramsey; six nieces; three nephews; and many other relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jeffery was preceded in death by his mother, Beatrice Cox Jeffery, and a brother, Austin McCoy, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Wendell Anthony Jeffery leaves behind a legacy of integrity and bravery in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors, and it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional firefighter and human being who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Wendell Anthony Jeffery, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a firefighter and human being and his stalwart commitment to protecting and serving his fellow citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Wendell Anthony Jeffery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.